

Remarks

Claims 50 to 53 are pending in this application.

In paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action, claims 50 to 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. D 430,794 (Parent-Inch).

In response to this, attached is a Rule 131 declaration swearing behind the cited reference. The inventor attests that the claimed invention was actually reduced to practice before the filing date of the cited reference, i.e. before May 5, 1999.

Each of the dates redacted from Exhibits A-E of the inventor's declaration is prior to May 5, 1999. Other subject matter has been redacted if it included trade secret information such as the identity of suppliers or customers, or if it involved subject matter unrelated to the subject patent application.

The reference numbers of Exhibits A, C, and D have been redacted and replaced by "A", "C", and "D" respectively because the reference nos. of the inventor's correspondence were suggestive of the date and year of production of those documents. In the original documentation, "A" appearing on the date line of Exhibit A is the same reference no. as "A" appearing in the second paragraph of Exhibit C.

Applicant respectfully submits that the attached declaration establishes that the invention was actually reduced to practice prior to the effective date of U.S. Patent No. D 430,794 (Parent-Inch).

Applicant asks for allowance of claims 50 to 53.

Please charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 07-1765.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Date